

**ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
HABITAT PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE
HABITAT ENHANCEMENT AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL**

Game Branch / HPC Project Number: 14-216

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: White Pockets Trick Tank

Region and Game Management Unit: Region II, GMU 12A

Local Habitat Partnership Committee (LHPC):

- Arizona Strip Habitat Working Group

Was the project presented to the LHPC?

YES[X] **NO**[]

Has this project been submitted in previous years? **YES**[X] **NO**[]

If Yes, was it funded? **YES**[] **NO**[X] → **Funded HPC Project #(s):**

Project Type: Construction of New Water Catchment

Brief Project Summary: As part of the finalization of a master water development plan for GMU 12AW, the White Pockets Trick Tank is the last of these developments to be proposed. A water catchment will be constructed for wintering mule deer in order to improve the distribution of wintering deer in an effort to alleviate forage utilization concerns and to reduce density dependent stressors on the 12AW wintering deer herd. The construction of this facility will complete the Westside Water Development Plan that included 13 new water sources.

Big Game Wildlife Species to Benefit:

Implementation Schedule (Month/Day/Year):

Project Start Date: 2015

Project End Date: 2015

Environmental Compliance:

NEPA Completed: **Yes**[X] **No**[] **N/A**[]

Projected Completion Date: _____

State Historic Preservation Office - Archaeological Clearance:

Yes[X] **No**[] **N/A**[]

Projected Completion Date: _____

Arizona Game and Fish Department EA Checklist: **N/A**[]

To be Completed by: Joe Curry

Projected Completion Date: _____

PROJECT FUNDING

Special Big Game License Tag Funds Requested:

\$ 29950.44

Cost Share or Matching Funds:

\$ 24200.00

Total Project Costs:

\$ 54150.44

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Applicant (please print):

Todd M. Buck

Address:

3500 S. Lake Mary Rd.

Flagstaff, AZ 86001

E-mail:

TBuck@azgfd.gov

Telephone: 928-856-0740

Date: 9/1/14

AGFD Contact and Phone No. (If applicant is not AGFD personnel):

Project has been coordinated with:

USFS, Arizona Strip Habitat Working Group, AZGFD Development Branch

NEED STATEMENT – PROBLEM ANALYSIS:

In 2004 large tracts of the GMU 12AW winter range were without perennial water sources (Fig. 1).

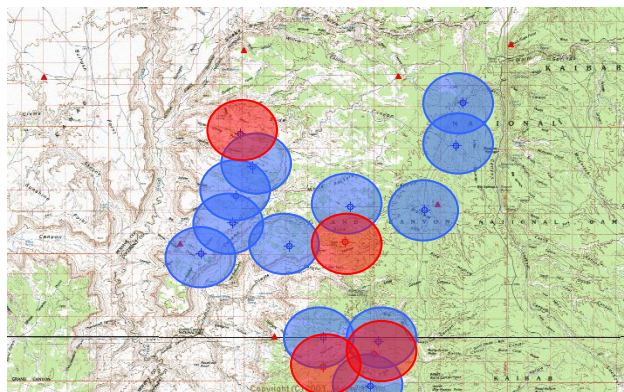


Figure 1. 2004 12AW winter-range water distribution. Blue indicates functioning water development, red indicates development in need of repair or reconstruction.

As of 2004 there were only 16 winter range water developments in GMU 12AW of these 13 were currently functioning. Only 10 of the 16 waters are at elevations which make them useful to the wintering deer herd (Fig. 1). As a result of a change in the timing of cattle use in the area, a pipeline which had historically been operated during the winter months, to the great benefit of the 12AW wintering deer herd, is now not used during the deer herd's winter tenure. Essentially all dirt tanks within the 12AW winter range have been dry during the winter months for the past 10 years. As a result of this substantial decrease in reliable water sources the deer distribution had become very concentrated around the few water developments which are providing water. In an effort to mitigate these concerns a comprehensive water development plan for GMU 12AW was developed and 13 locations for new water developments were identified. To date, 11 of these new waters, shown in Blue with Red outline, have been constructed with 2 remaining, shown in black (Fig. 2).

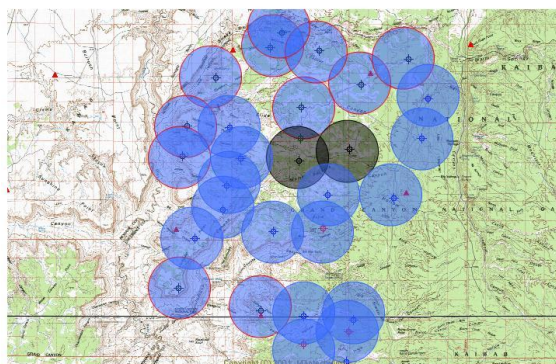


Figure 2. New 12AW water developments.

Five of these developments are combination sheep/deer waters with the remaining 8 catchments being solely for deer. The end result of this effort will be a more uniform water distribution on the winter range of GMU 12AW (Fig. 2).

The last of these waters, White Pockets Trick Tank, will be constructed in an area considered winter mule deer range and will fill a void of approximately 7 square miles. This water will also allow for better distribution of wintering deer in an effort to alleviate forage utilization concerns and to reduce density dependent stressors on the 12AW wintering deer herd.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

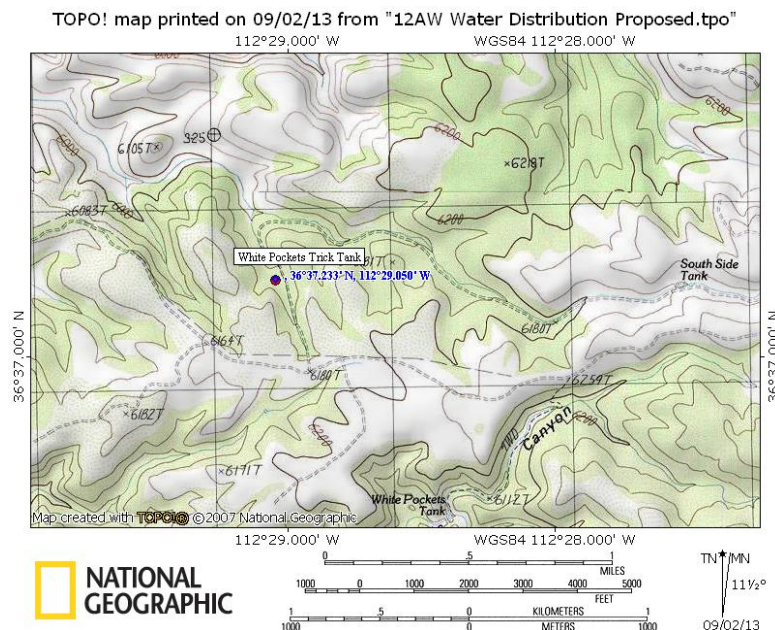
The objective of this project is to construct a new Wildlife Water Development to provide wintering Mule Deer with a perennial water source in central 12AW. This water development will also mitigate a substantial loss of other water sources in 12AW and to allow for a more even distribution of wintering deer in an effort to combat high forage utilization levels. This development is the last in a series of 13 developments being constructed to address the overall water distribution concerns on the winter range of GMU 12AW.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STRATEGIES:

Utilize SBG Funds and an Arizona Game and Fish Department contractor to construct a new development consisting of a 24'X96' metal apron which will collect water into four 2500 gallon storage tanks which, in turn, supplies a 5' gravity fed walk in drinker box.

PROJECT LOCATION:

N 36°37.230' W 112°29.047' (NAD 83)



LAND OWNERSHIP AT THE PROJECT SITE(S):

(if the project area is private property, please state specifically and provide the landowner's name)

- Entirely United States Forest Service ownership

*IF PRIVATE PROPERTY, IS THERE A COOPERATIVE BIG GAME STEWARDSHIP or
LANDOWNER AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LANDOWNER AND THE DEPARTMENT?*
YES[] NO[] N/A[]

HABITAT DESCRIPTION:

The habitat type is typically referred to as mule deer winter range. The White Pockets Trick Tank is at an elevation of approximately 6352' and the primary vegetation consists of various grasses and forbes, sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*), and cliffrose (*Cowania mexicana*), pinion trees (*Pinus sp.*), and Utah juniper trees (*Juniperus utahensis*).

ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:

Special Big Game License Tag Funds

4 – 2500 gallon Polyethylene water storage Tanks =	\$13280.44 (\$ 3,320.11 each)
1 – polyethylene Standard Walk-in Trough =	\$ 3,200.00
1 – 24' Polyethylene Standard Gutter =	\$ 750.00
1 – 24' X 96' Steel Frame and R-panel Apron =	\$ 7,580.00
1 – 150' X 150' Livestock Exclosure Piperail Fence =	\$ 3,390.00
1 – 3" Sch. 80 PVC Plumbing Package =	\$ 750.00
1 – Miscellaneous Materials =	\$ 1,000.00

TOTAL = \$29950.44

Cost Share or Matching Funds (for volunteer labor rates please refer to the worksheet below)

Labor (2 work periods, 5 man crew)	\$17,600	
Subsistence and miscellaneous		\$ 2,400
Equipment Depreciation		<u>\$ 4,200</u>
Total Matching Funds		\$24,200

LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:

The USFS North Kaibab Ranger District has **completed all NEPA documentation** for the facility.

Arizona Game and Fish Department Development Branch.

Arizona Strip Habitat Working Group.

WOULD IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PROJECT ASSIST IN PROVIDING, MAINTAINING, OR FACILITATING RECREATIONAL ACCESS?

YES[] NO[X] N/A[]

PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:

The district wildlife manager or USFS personnel will check the development annually. In addition, animal use at the site will be documented by the district wildlife manager during survey efforts and during all incidental visits to the site.

PROJECT MAINTENANCE:

The district wildlife manager or USFS personnel will perform minor maintenance.
The Arizona Game and Fish Department Development Crew (SSDV) will perform major maintenance.

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:

Joseph Currie, AZGFD SSDV

WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (*please use the worksheet below*):

TREE CLEARING/REMOVAL PROJECTS (*please use the worksheet below*):

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT WATER DEVELOPMENT WORKSHEET

PROJECT TITLE: White Pockets Trick Tank

- 1) **Is the water development listed as a priority in the most recent “Wildlife Water Development Annual Implementation Schedule?”** YES
- 2) **Please list the Development Branch personnel and date coordinated with for this project.**
Joe Curry and Ed Jahrke multiple dates over last several years
- 3) **What is the estimated annual inches of precipitation for the area? (mark one)**
☐2-4 ☐4-6 ☐6-8 ☐8-10 ☒10-12 ☐12-14 ☐14-16 ☐ >16
- 4) **Is there a perennial water source available to big game within four miles of this project?**

YES ☐ (please complete #5 below) NO ☒ (skip #5 below)
- 5) **For the accessible, perennial water source nearest this project:**
Name of water source:
Type of water source (catchment, spring, dirt tank):
Ownership of water source:
Distance in miles from project:
- 6) **Is the target wildlife species a result of transplant efforts?** YES ☐ NO ☒
- 7) **Please list any special land management status for the project site (i.e. Wilderness, National Park, National Monument). If private land, list landowner.**
- 8) **Please provide the following information about access to the proposed site:**
Type of access (mark one): ☒2x4 vehicles ☐4x4 only ☐foot only**

**If foot access only: Distance in miles: _____ Approximate hiking time: _____

-- Does access to this site require crossing private or tribal lands? YES ☐ NO ☒

-- Please describe any restrictions to public access:
- 9) **Please list below (or on a separate sheet) the material type and dimensions of each component proposed to be added, modified, or repaired.**
- 10) **Was a site visit completed?** Yes ☐ No ☒
If Yes, please list personnel that attended and date.